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8 April 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
RELATING TO NATIONAL SECURITY

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GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
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State Dept. review completed

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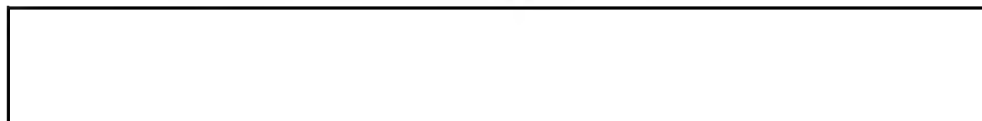
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3. Arab States - Israel: Lebanon and Syria proceeding with water diversion projects. (Page 6)



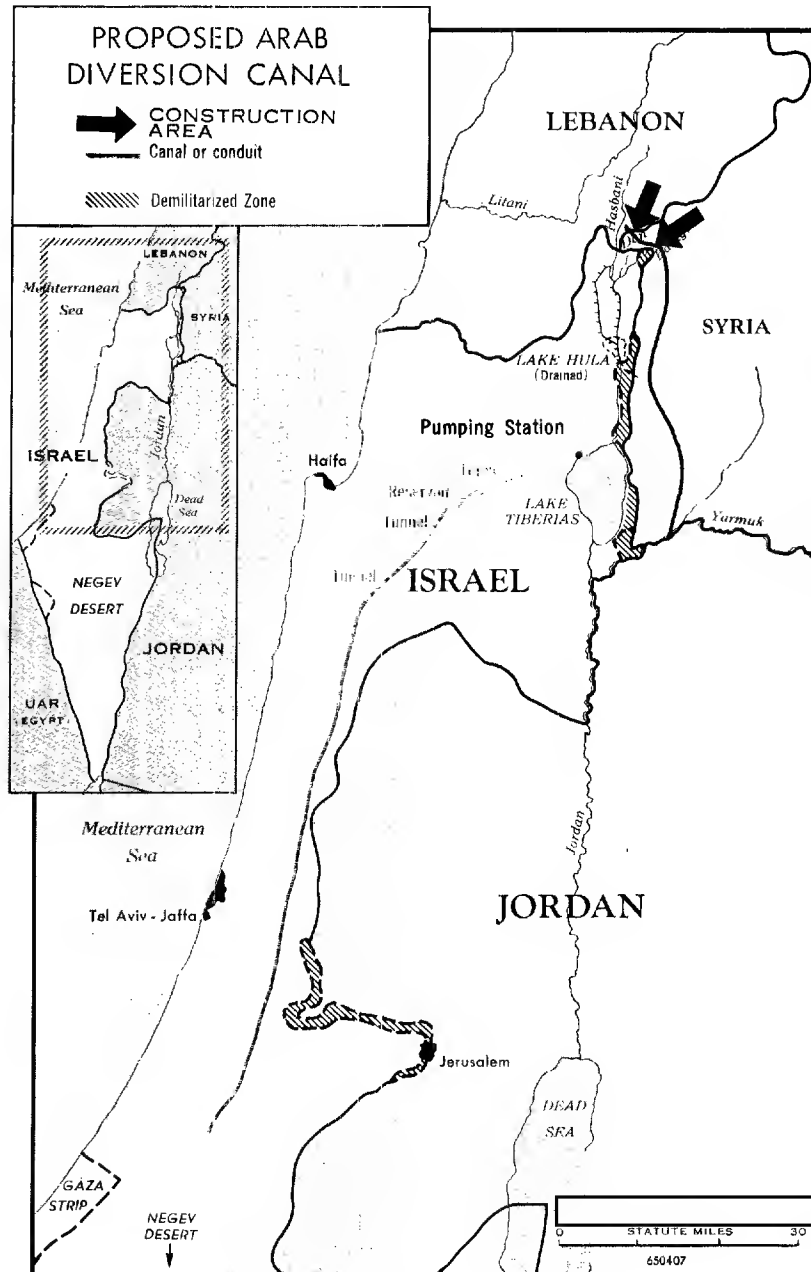
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5. Notes: France-US; Panama; Egypt; Congo (Brazzaville). (Page 9)



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8 Apr 65 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Map

Arab States - Israel: Lebanon and Syria are proceeding with projects to divert the Jordan River's headwaters despite the danger that Israel will react with force.

Lebanon recently began grading the right-of-way for a canal which will take water from the upper Hasbani River, one of the Jordan's sources. This project is part of the joint Arab plan for depriving Israel of its water.

Lebanese leaders have been reluctant to risk possible Israeli retaliation, but they have also feared a sharp reaction from Lebanon's Muslim population if they fail to comply with the Arab scheme. What the Lebanese almost certainly hope is that they can proceed slowly with the diversion work while international pressure prevents Israel from taking pre-emptive action. Meanwhile, they are taking precautionary defense measures near the Israeli border.

The Israelis are aware of the Lebanese work, but there is no indication that they plan any immediate counter-action. The present Lebanese construction activity is two to four miles from the Israeli border.

Syria has resumed grading its part of the canal route. This activity is within sight of Israel, only a mile or two from the border. The Syrians had stopped work here after Israel shelled the area during a border incident on 17 March. At that time one Syrian was killed and some equipment destroyed.

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NOTES

France-US: Paris has now formally vetoed a CINCEUR training exercise, known as TAB-V, which calls for the dispersal of US tactical air squadrons to operating bases in France, Germany, and the UK. The French asserted that approval of the exercise could have led to the mistaken conclusion that France would automatically accept the redeployment of nuclear armed aircraft in time of crisis. This action by the French is in line with their policy to disapprove, whenever possible, any Allied military exercise that carries political or strategic implications unacceptable to France.

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Panama: Extremist elements are lending support to the nearly 200 striking sugar mill workers who are now marching toward Panama City to present their grievances to the Robles government.

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Communist elements and followers of Arnulfo Arias have been advising the strikers to ignore a government decision declaring the strike illegal. Because the struck mill is partially owned by Vice President Max Del Valle, the current agitation may be another attempt to arouse public feeling or perhaps even violence against the government and the oligarchy.

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Egypt: Nasir has apparently accepted the fact that he cannot attain his goal of doubling Egypt's gross national product by 1970. Reports in the Cairo press indicate that the second five-year plan (1965-1970) has now become a seven-year plan. The original goals evidently have been stretched out rather than added to, but specific reasons for the change have been blurred in published explanations.

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Congo (Brazzaville): A cabinet reshuffle on 6 April-- probably precipitated by the recent escape of former president Youlou--has further tightened the grip of leftist extremist elements on the Brazzaville regime. The key interior ministry has now been assigned to Andre Hombessa who, as minister for youth and sports, condoned if not facilitated the increasing use of the regime's youth organization by the extremists. At the same time, two prominent moderates who had held portfolios since the August 1963 coup were dropped from the cabinet.

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The Secretary of State

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The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

The Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs

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The Treasury Department

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The Under Secretary of the Treasury

The Department of Defense

The Secretary of Defense

The Deputy Secretary of Defense

The Secretary of the Army

The Secretary of the Navy

The Secretary of the Air Force

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